(b) The Seminar-cum-Workshop made several recommendations with an emphasis on the ways and means of dealing with operation and maintenance problems faced to SAARC member countries in the field of rural water supply. The member countries have not drawn any joint action plan.

Advanced U.S. AWACS for Pakistan

*167. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States of America is supplying more advanced AWACS to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The US Government is committed in principle to supply an Airborn Early Warning system in Pakistan. No decision has been announced about the type of system to be supplied; nor about the modality and timing of the transfer.

(b) On several occasions, Government has conveted to the US Government India's serious concern at the supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan, particularly those which act as force multipliers. Government considers that such supplies results in an unnecessary and wasteful arms race in the sub-continent and thereby highten tension in the region.

Financial aid given in LTTE leaders

*168. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a request for financial aid was made by the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) to the Government of India;

(b) whether the Government of India had handed over Rs. 50 lakhs to Shri Valupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the LTTE;

(c) whether this amount was a part of the deal between the LTTE and the Indian Government to enable both the Governments to sign the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount was made available to the LTTE.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Amendment of the Haj Committee Act, 1959

*169. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate fresh legislation to Haj Committee Act, 1959;

(b) if so, wheher a sub-committee had been constituted for the purpose and whether due representation had been given to various sections of the Committee; and

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report to Government and whether the draft